

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 remain pending in the application. Claims 5, 7-8, 12, 14 and 20 have been amended.

Applicant appreciatively notes that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 5, 8 and 12 were objected to because of the noted informalities. In response, these claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 7, 14 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, these claims have been amended and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 5-18 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,229,941 to Suliteanu et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Suliteanu et al. does not anticipate the present invention as recited in claim 1. In the present invention, the "two second means for hinging (1/2', 1/2'') the means for stiffening (1) on each means for linking at two separate points", which allow rotation movement only, cannot be considered as disclosed by Suliteanu et al. in which "a tubular portion 17A and a movable piston-like portion 17B that is slidably engageable in the tubular portion", which allows a translation movement only. This does not anticipate the structure or function of the hinging means and accordingly the anticipation rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Claims 2-3, 5-18 and 20-23 recites additional, important limitations and should be allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, as well as on their own merits.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 19 recites additional limitations and is dependent on claim 1 as should be allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, as well as on its own merits.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including

extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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